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Council for IWU Women Seeks to Inspire Confidence

Feb. 11, 2015

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— The Council for IWU Women will host its annual summit Feb. 26-28. This year's theme is "Time to Climb Together."

The Council for IWU Women, which began in 2006, was created to instill confidence in female students with the help of successful alumnae as mentors and as resources. The conference will facilitate exchanges of information and networking between alumnae and current students.

All female students, faculty and staff are invited to attend. Meals, summit activities and four scholarships are fully funded by the more than 70 Council for IWU Women members.

Summit sessions range from a Thursday evening panel discussion on how being a woman affects one in her field, to practice interviews with Council alumnae, to tips on developing mentor relationships. The popular Career Connections event, where students can informally network with more than 30 Council members working in a variety of careers, will be held Friday afternoon at Hansen Student Center. See the complete schedule for details. Students must pre-register for the practice interviews on Friday afternoon, and attendees are asked to RSVP for the luncheons and sessions.

Leah Merrifield '78 will deliver the kickoff luncheon address on Feb. 27 in the Young Main Lounge. Her presentation is entitled "We Didn't Start the Fire: Reflections on Living a Life that Matters." Merrifield is Washington University's assistant vice chancellor for community engagement. In this role she is responsible for cultivating, sustaining and advancing strategic academic partnerships in the St. Louis region. She serves on the board of the St. Louis Minority Supplier Development Council, is a member of Barnes Jewish Hospital's Nominations and Governance Board committee, and is chair of the board of College Bound Saint Louis. She earned her master's degree in higher education administration from The University of Texas at Austin.

Jill York '85, vice president and chief financial officer of MB Financial, Inc., will present the address for the Feb. 28 closing luncheon in the Young Main Lounge. York is also executive vice president, chief financial officer and a director of MB Financial Bank. Prior to the MB-MidCity Merger, she served as vice president and chief financial officer of MB Financial, Inc. She previously served as a partner with the public accounting firm of McGladrey LLP. Scholarships will also be presented to four students at Saturday's luncheon.



Elizabeth Egan '14 and Colleen Luckey '14 mingle with alumnae during the 2014 Council for IWU Women Summit.

By Mallika Kavadi '15